Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to FIG. 4. This sheet, which includes only FIG. 4, replaces the original sheet including FIG. 4. In FIG. 4, a connection to a network and remote devices is added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes.

REMARKS

Claims 27-60, 63-86 are pending in the present application. Claims 27-86 have been rejected. Claims 61-62 have been cancelled. Claim 72 is amended.

Drawings

FIG. 4 has been amended. Applicant believes the amendments add no new matter. Paragraph 23 of the corresponding U.S. publication recites.

> *Furthermore, although the I/O circuit 88 is shown as a single block, it should be appreciated that the I/O circuit 88 could include a number of different types of I/O circuits, including an I/O circuit with the ability to receive local network, wide area network, Internet and/or Intranet addressable information. Moreover the I/O circuit 88 may be adapted to receive a number of signals which may allow a programmer to change the information stored within the RAM(s) 86 and/or ROM(s) 82 and therefore vary the game play described below.*

Applicant believes that it is inherent that remote devices would be connected to the described networks and information received at 88 would be from a remote device.

Double Patenting

Claims 61 and 62 have been cancelled and the double patenting issues are believed obviated.

112 rejections

Prior to addressing the individual rejections, Applicant provides some general remarks. Paragraphs 8-9 in the background section recites,

> *[0008] One drawback to either a virtual reel or a reel containing an electroluminescent display is that the slot machine game play is still limited by the number of unique symbols that can be displayed by the physical reel. In other words, in utilizing a traditional physical reel with twenty-two symbols, a virtual reel can display, at most, twenty-two unique symbols. Similarly, while an electroluminescent reel may increase the number of unique symbols possible, the electroluminescent reel is also limited by the number of unique luminescent patterns. Still further, if the owner of the slot machine utilizing either technique wishes to change the gaming symbols, the slot machine reels must be physically replaced, resulting in extremely costly "down-time" for the machine and consequently lost revenue for the owner.*

[0009] To allow a gaming machine with an infinite number of display symbols, game manufacturer's have utilized flat, rigid panel displays, (i.e., liquid crystal displays ("LCDs"), or light emitting diode ("LED") displays) similar to a display of a computer screen. By utilizing a rigid display panel, a computer processor is able to create, display, manipulate and control a "virtual slot machine" without any mechanical spinning reels, further allowing for an infinite number of possible symbol displays and increased payouts. However, while the use of the virtual slot machine has proven popular in today's personal computer market, it has not met with much success in casinos, as a slot machine player desires the visual stimulation, and excitement of a traditional, spinning reel slot machine.

These paragraphs describe that a traditional physical reel includes a number of unique patterns on each reel. For example, a physical reel may include 22 patterns arranged the circumference of a reel. As is known in the art, to change the unique patterns on a traditional physical reel, the reel must be physically replaced or at the very least, the reel strip, which includes a number of patterns printed on a media is replaced with a new reel strip.

In contrast, on a video slot machine using a flat, rigid display panel, "*a computer processor is able to create, display, manipulate and control a "virtual slot machine" without any mechanical spinning reels, further allowing for an infinite number of possible symbol displays and increased payouts.*" The infinite number does not mean that an infinite number of symbols may be displayed at once or stored at once on a traditional video gaming machine. It merely means that if one to enumerate all of the possible "symbol displays" (i.e., patterns) they would be infinite. This is true also for a physical reel as well. Further, on a traditional video slot machine given an infinite amount of time, it would be possible to display an infinite sequence of unique display symbols. Nevertheless, this doesn't mean that Applicant believes that traditional video gaming machines at a particular time are programmed with and

store instructions that allow for an infinite number of symbol displays to be generated. Nor does Applicant believe that one of skill of the art would interpret these paragraphs in the background or the use of the word "infinite" in the specification to have this meaning.

Next, individual elements of the 112 rejections are addressed.

In Element 4 of the Office Communication, claims 27-86 are rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph. Element 4 of the Office Communication recites

> *Agreeably, the selected inidicia in a current game may replace the image of symbols in viewing window of prior game outcome based on randomly determined outcome; however, removed from the flexible display as claimed suggests the symbol is no longer present on the reel strip and this is not disclosed and also is not inferred at least since this seems to imply a reprogramming of symbols as the game is played.*

Applicant respectfully disagrees. Since the flexible displays are video capable, the symbols may be reprogrammed as the game is played. Paragraph 26 recites, "Furthermore, the controller 80 may be programmed to dynamically change the chosen indicia before, during or after game play to offer the user a unique game play experience." Paragraph 25 recites, "For example, the controller 80 may be programmed to choose indicia designed to attract a player to the slot machine 10, such as gaming instructions, or simulations of game play. The controller 80 may instruct the display driver 50 to display the chosen indicia at a block 102." Further paragraph 18 recites, "The slot machine reel 40 may further include one or more integrated circuits 48 which process appropriate data to control display of the various indicia." Thus, Applicant believes the 112 first paragraph rejection in regards to written description is overcome thereby.

In Element 5 of the Office Communication, claims 54-56 and 85 are rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The

rejection indicates that there is no support in the specification for selecting an indicium based upon an amount wagered. Paragraph 26 recites, "It will be recognized by those skilled in the art that the controller 80 may be programmed to determine an infinite variety of game play indicia and furthermore, the criteria for determining the indicia may be based upon any criteria. For example, game play indicia may be themed to a particular casino, gaming machine, gaming area, and/or game show, and the indicia may be further chosen based upon the amount of value inserted by the user." Applicant believes the specification at least provides support at this location and the rejection is believed overcome thereby.

In Element 6 of the Office Communication, claims 27-86 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Office Communication appears to reject to the use of the word "infinite" in the specification. For example, paragraph 18 recites, "flexible display panel 42 may be further capable of displaying an infinite number of possible indicia relevant to game play" and paragraph 26 recites, "It will be recognized by those skilled in the art that the controller 80 may be programmed to determine an infinite variety of game play indicia." Further, the Office Communication recites the only disclosed value for a plurality of symbols in the original filed specification is infinite, however, there is no value for infinite. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The use of word infinite above merely indicates that there is an "infinite" number of possible choices available in regards to game play indicia. Again this is true for a video display or a printed reel strip. Some finite set of these available choices is programmed into the gaming apparatus at a given time as is some finite set printed on a physical reel strip. For example, as the specification describes the game play indicia that are selected may themed to a particular casino (paragraph 26). Applicant doesn't claim to have invented a gaming

apparatus that at a particular time is programmed with an infinite number game play indicia. Nor, does Applicant claim to have an invented a device that is capable of displaying an infinite number of game play indicia at one time. Applicant doesn't believe that a person of skill of the art would interpret the specification in this manner as it is not consistent with any known engineering practices.

The specification provides a number of examples where a selection of symbols is being made on the gaming apparatus. For example, paragraph 25 recites, "For example, the controller 80 may be programmed to choose indicia designed to attract a player to the slot machine 10, such as gaming instructions, or simulations of game play" and then paragraph 26 recites, "Furthermore, the controller 80 may be programmed to dynamically change the chosen indicia before, during or after game play to offer the user a unique game play experience. Once the game play indicia is determined, at a block 110, the controller 80 may instruct the display driver 50 to display the game play indicia on the flexible display panel 42 associated with each of the reels 14, 16, 18."

Thus, while the gaming apparatus is operational an initial selection of indicia may be selected, such as to attract players to the game, then game play indicia may be selected. These selections may be made at various times, such as during game play. To provide the user with a unique game playing experience, as is indicated in the specification, the controller may be programmed to change the indicia. Clearly, these selections are made from a plurality of symbols that the controller is capable of displaying. Thus, Applicant believes the rejection is overcome thereby.

In element 9 of the Office Communication, Claims 27-86 are rejected under USC 112, second paragraph for failing to particular point and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. As described, Applicant doesn't believe the specification

teaches that the gaming apparatus is programmed with an infinite number of indicium nor would one in skill of the art interpret the specification as such since it is not consistent with any known engineering practices. Thus, Applicant believes the rejection is overcome thereby.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in proper form and condition for patentability, and request a Notification of Allowance to that effect. If any fees are due in connection with this Response to Office Action or for this application in general then the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0388, referencing Docket No. IGT1P267. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number below with any questions or concerns relating to this document or application.

Respectfully Submitted,
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